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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Letter dated 28 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

"Illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species is a threat to all three pillars of the United Nations — human rights, peace and security, and development." With this concise characterization, the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson, described the scope of these phenomena when opening a high-level discussion on "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking — a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community". The event was jointly organized by Gabon and Germany and took place on 26 September 2013 at United Nations Headquarters.

The meeting discussed the complexity of poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking. It also produced a number of important proposals for possible steps to be taken in the framework of the United Nations. Given the global impact of poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, we believe that the Member States of the United Nations might be interested in the outcome of the meeting.

Therefore, we have the pleasure to transmit to you herewith a summary of the discussion held on 26 September (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63 (b).

We look forward to further deliberations on the proposals made by the high-level representatives in order to tackle poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking.

(*Signed*) Noel Nelson **Messone**

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**

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Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Outcome of the high-level discussion on "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking — a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community", organized by Gabon and Germany on 26 September 2013 in New York

On 26 September 2013, a high-level discussion on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking was hosted by the Governments of Gabon and Germany at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York as a special side event to the opening of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Several Heads of State and Ministers representing many United Nations Member States followed the invitation of President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon and Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle of Germany to participate. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson, and leading representatives of United Nations agencies as well as regional organizations, relevant civil society organizations and the media also attended the meeting, which was moderated by John Scanlon, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature, James Leape, stressed the recent alarming increase in wildlife trafficking. He characterized it as being more organized, more lucrative, more widespread and more dangerous than ever before.

Participants in the discussion unanimously concurred with the statement made by the Deputy Secretary-General: "Illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species is a threat to all three pillars of the United Nations — human rights, peace and security, and development."

It was undisputed that poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking should be regarded as a serious crime, driven by organized criminal gangs and rebel militias. This crime was not only a threat to the environment or biodiversity. With its far-reaching consequences, it constituted a real and immediate threat to local people, national economies, and national and regional security, especially in Africa.

There was a clear recognition from everyone that no one agency, country or region acting alone can combat these serious crimes. A collective effort is required, commensurate with the scale and the nature of the threats. A response that includes source, transit and destination States and addresses both demand and supply, as was recognized in the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

The main message of the high-level discussion was the call for intensified global cooperation, under the leadership of the United Nations and based on partnership, in the fight against wildlife crime.

All Member States should make the best use of existing instruments and initiatives in combating wildlife crime, with many placing strong emphasis on CITES and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime conventions against transnational organized crime and corruption, as well as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime.

Beyond that, the following recommendations for possible further action against poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking in the framework of the United Nations were made and widely supported:

- To establish a Group of Friends in New York composed of Permanent Missions to the United Nations
- To propose the nomination of a Special Representative/Envoy of the Secretary-General
- To draft a resolution and submit it to the General Assembly
- To convene a global high-level United Nations conference. Gabon offered to host such a conference.